

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 7929

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, TH

SUBJECT: INDO- CHINA WEEK AT CHIANG MAI UNIVERSITY ( CMU)

FOLLOWING RECEIVED ACTION BANGKOK FROM CHIANG MAI MAY 8. REPEATED  
FOR YOUR INFO:

QUOTE:

CHIANG MAI 149

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS,

SUBJECT: INDO- CHINA WEEK AT CHIANG MAI UNIVERSITY ( CMU)

REF: CHIANG MAI'S 131

SUMMARY: THE INDOCHINA PEACE EXHIBIT AND LECTURE SERIES HELD AT  
CHIANG MAI UNIVERSITY 30 APRIL TO 4 MAY 1973 PASSED QUIETLY AFTER  
FAILING TO AROUSE SIGNIFICANT STUDENT OR PRESS INTEREST.  
MAXIMUM LECTURE ATTENDENCE WAS 300 STUDENTS AND FACULTY DURING  
ADDRESS BY FORMER DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER POLICE MAJOR GENERAL  
SANAGA KITTIKACHORN ON " WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF THE VIETNAM WAR ON  
THAILAND?" STUDENT INTEREST APPEARED AS MUCH CONCERNED WITH DOM-  
ESTIC POLITICS AND CRITICISM OF RTG AS WITH ANY ADVERSE EFFECTS OF  
U. S. MILITARY PRESENCE. PROGRAM PROVIDED VEHICLE FOR INDIRECT  
CRITICISM OF RTG. MAJOR PORTIONS OF PRESENTATIONS, INCLUDING STUDENT  
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LEADERSHIP AND ANTI- WAR, ANTI- U. S. MATERIALS, WERE IMPORTED FROM  
THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY. CHIANG MAI STUDENT ASSOCIATION ORGANIZERS  
APPARENTLY FAILED TO FIND A CAUSE CELEBRE ON A PAR WITH POPULAR ANTI-  
JAPANESE DEMONSTRATIONS OF

NOVEMBER 1972. DETAILED TEXTS, REPORTS  
AND THAI MATERIALS BEING POUCHED. END SUMMARY.

1. INDO CHINA WEEK AT CMU CONSISTED OF ANTI- WAR PICTURE EXHIBIT, SLIDE SHOWS, A MOVIE AND SERIES OF LECTURES AND PANELS. LOCAL PARTICIPANTS RECRUITED CHIEFLY FROM CMU MASS COMMUNICATIONS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE FACULTIES. PROGRAMS HELD IN SMALL AUDITORIUM SEATING MAXIMUM OF 150, AND ONLY OVERFLOW AUDIENCE WAS FOR SANGA LECTURE, WHEN ABOUT 300 CAME. (LOCAL PRESS ENTHUSIASTICALLY REPORTED 3000 STUDENTS ATTENDED ONE LECTURE.) UNIVERSITY CURRENTLY IN SUMMER SESSION WITH ONLY 4000 OF 7000 STUDENTS ON CAMPUS. TIMING, LACK OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT, AND DISINTEREST OF STUDENTS AND PRESS CONTRIBUTED TO THE SPARSE PARTICIPATION.

2. AS REPORTED REFTEL, USIS OFFICER DECLINED INVITATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN PANEL. ONE STUDENT SPEAKER RECOGNIZED A USIS FSL IN AUDIENCE AND ANNOUNCED HIS PRESENCE, STATING THAT CIA MEN WERE ALSO PRESENT. THAI UNIFORMED POLICE WERE NOT EVIDENT, BUT CID COVERED THE EVENTS. NORMAL CAMPUS ACTIVITIES CONTINUED UNINTERRUPTED AROUND THE AREA. SEVERAL VIETNAMESE RESIDENTS ALSO ATTENDED THE LECTURES.

3. PANEL TOPICS WERE: THE INDOCHINA WAR; AMERICAN AS THE WORLD LEADER; WHAT'S BEHIND AMERICAN AID TO THAILAND; AND U. S. BASES IN THAILAND. STEVE SCHMIDT, A FORMER PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER WAS ONLY U. S. PARTICIPANT IN PANEL. HE DISCUSSED WORLD PEACE IN TERMS OF BUDDHISM AND CONCLUDED U. S. GAINS MORE FROM BASES IN THAILAND THAN THE THAI. THEMES AND DISCUSSIONS ALSO INCLUDED THE NEED FOR IMMEDIATE U. S. WITHDRAWAL AND BEST TACTICS FOR STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS TOWARD THAT END.

4. JARAN DISTHA- APHICHA, A THAMMASAT GRADUATE, AGGRESSIVELY URGED IMMEDIATE DEMONSTRATIONS PROVIDING THEY WERE WELL PLANNED. SPEAKERS MICHAIR WIRAWAITHAYA, SECRETARY OF THE FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION AND SUCHAT SAWATSI, EDITOR OF THE BANGKOK JOURNAL, SANGKHOMSAT PRITHAT,

ALSO URGED STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS. MR. THIRAYUTH BOONMEE, SECRETARY  
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GENERAL NATIONAL STUDENT CENTER OF THAILAND COUNSELED STUDENTS TO OBTAIN PUBLIC SUPPORT BEFORE ATTEMPTING PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS WHICH COULD BRING A VIOLENT RESPONSE FROM RTG.

5. ACCORDING REPORTS, SANGA KITTIKACHORN SAID LITTLE ABOUT U. S. BASES AND CONCENTRATED ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND THAILAND'S FUTURE. AFTER LECTURE SANGA WAS ASKED HIS OPINION ON THE CHARGES THAT THE RTG HAS NEGLECTED FARMERS' PROBLEMS, THAT THE "THANOM AND PRAPHAT GROUP" IS CORRUPT, AND THAT PEOPLE WILL SOON BE FORMING ARMED RESISTANCE TO THE GOVERNMENT. SANGA ANSWERED THAT REVOLUTIONS ARE OF MANY KINDS, AND THAT IN COMING TO LECTURE HE DID NOT MEAN TO AROUSE REVOLUTION NOR DID HE WANT TO SEE ONE. AT THIS POINT THERE WAS POWER FAILURE, HOUSE LIGHTS WENT OFF, AND THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.

6. CHIANG MAI DAILY THAI NEWS IS ONLY LOCAL PAPER TO PRINT STORIES ON WEEK'S EVENTS TO DATE, CONSISTING MAINLY OF PHOTO COVERAGE AND CAPTIONS. A MAY 3 STORY REPORTED MEECHAI VERAVAITHAYA'S ADDRESS ON U. S. AID, QUOTING HIS ANALOGY THAT " A DOG USUALLY BITES HIS OWNER WHO GIVES HIM HIS DAILY MEAT". THIS SUPERFICIAL REPORTING HAS DONE LITTLE TO ENCOURAGE THE PROGRAM OR EVEN DRAW MUCH ATTENTION TO IT. THAI NEWS

RAN A PICTURE OF SUCHAT SWASDISRI, BILLING HIM AS THAILAND'S " THINKER OF THE CENTURY". SUCHAT QUOTED AS SAYING THAT PEACE WITH HONOR HAS NOT BEEN OBTAINED IN VIETNAM BECAUSE THE BIG POWERS HAVE NOT LET THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE MAKE THEIR OWN DECISIONS.

6. PUBLICATIONS: TWO PAMPHLETS WERE DISTRIBUTED FREE, " INDOCHINA WAR" ( CHAREONWITH PUBLISHING 48/54 TALAD BAN PHARN THOM, BANGLAMPPOO, BANGKOK, PUBLISHER SURAWIT CHAIPONSAWALEE) AND " PEACE IN INDOCHINA, MUSIC FOR PEACE" BY CMU. FOR SALE WERE: ( A ) " PALAD" A MAGAZINE PUBLISHED BY THE STUDENTS JOINT FRONT, CMU ( B ) TWO ISSUES OF " SOCIAL SCIENCES REVIEW" ( UNIVERSITY PRINTING UNIT, SOCIAL SCIENCES ASSOCIATION OF THAILAND, PHYA THAI ROAD,

CHULA SOI 2, BANGKOK), AND ( C ) " A LITERARY WORK FOR LIFE", ( PREECHA SUMAKKITHAM, EDITOR, 1/2 SOI WATANAYOTHIN, BANGKOK 4).

7. COMMENT: A PEACE WEEK PROGRAM APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN A WATERED- DOWN VERSION OF CHULALONGKHORN AND THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY EFFORTS. ITS PRINCIPLE ATTRACTION FOR STUDENTS  
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WAS AS VEHICLE FOR STUDENT MOBILIZATION AND INDIRECT CRITICISM OF RTG. ANTI- U. S. SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED WERE OF THE FASHIONABLE VARIETY MORE THAN THE HEARTFELT, AND CONCERN OVER U. S. PRESENCE WAS EXPRESSED IN THE CONTEXT OF DEVELOPING NEW POST- VIETNAM THAI POLICIES.

B. PEACE WEEK WAS NOT A SIGNIFICANT OR EVEN A POPULAR EVENT; SOME PROFESSORS DID NOT RPT NOT EVEN REALIZE IT WAS GOING ON. IT DEMONSTRATED ALSO THAT CMU STUDENTS STILL LOOK TO BANGKOK COUNTERPARTS FOR POLITICAL LEADERSHIP. CMU STUDENTS WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE PARROT ACTIVITIES OF THAMMASAT AND CHULALONGKHORN, BUT AS YET THERE IS LITTLE EVIDENCE OF A MILITANT, ACTIVIST STUDENT BODY.  
MONTGOMERY UNQUOTE  
MASTERS

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